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THE LAST

DYING SPEECH,

OF

CHARLES STOREY,

Who was executed FRIDAY the 26th of JULY, 1782, on PINENDEN-HEATH, near MAIDSTONE, for the wilful Murder of HENRY PERKINS, of CHARTHAM, near CANTERBURY.

CHARLES STOREY, committed by J. Duncombe, clerk, 23d May; charged with the wilful murder of Henry Perkins, late of Chartham, paper-maker, on the 22d of the ſame month, in the pariſh of Thannington; and alſo with robbing him the ſaid Henry Perkins of a pair of ſhoes, a pair of plated buckles, and ſome ſilver, his property.

The Particulars of the above MURDER are as follow:

Perkins had been the preceding day to Canterbury on buſineſs, on his return home in the afternoon called at the Roſe, in Wincheap-ſtreet, where Storey (who lived as waggoner's mate with Mr. Sankey, at Milton, near Chartham) and he drank together, having known each other for ſome time; about half after eight they went away on their road home, but ſtopt at the next public-houſe (the King's-head) and called for a pint of beer; when they had drank it, Storey ſaid to the other, Perkins pay for this pint & I'll pay you again, the other complied and went away alone. In a few minutes after Storey went into the yard choſe out a large ſtick, and followed, came up with Perkins in the firſt field, had a few words with him, and on the brow of the next field, near a wood, he knocked him down, gave him ſeveral ſtabs with a knife in his face, and afterwards dragged him to the woodſide, where he cut his throat in ſo ſhocking a manner as nearly to ſever his head from his body, then took what money he had, his ſhoes and buckles, and returned immediately to the houſe from whence he came, his frock bloody, and one hand reeking with the blood of the deceaſed; he called for cyder and brandy, and pulled out of his pocket a quantity of halfpence, ſorted them, ſung one or two ſongs, appeared in very high ſpirits, and ſtayed with ſome of his fellow ſervants, who were drinking there, till near one o'clock, when he refuſed to go home to Milton with them, knowing they would paſs the place where he had committed the murder. The mangled body of Perkins being diſcovered early in the morning by two or three women at work in the field, ſuſpicion immediately fell upon Storey, and after diligent ſearch he was found covered with ſtraw in a ſtable in Wincheap, with the ſhoes and buckles of the deceaſed ſtained with blood, and his own perſon and clothes in the ſame condition; he was then taken before a magiſtrate, who committed him as above. He is a young man, not eighteen years of age, a native of Ingwor, in Norfolk, and the youngeſt of 12 children, whoſe father is living.

The deceaſed Perkins, was a man of good character, and much reſpected by his maſter, has left two children, and his wife pregnant with another.

During confinement the behaviour of this miſerable man, who hath fallen a victim to the laws of his country, was hardened and impenitent, indicating a diſplay of weakneſs and inſenſibility of the crime for which he was attainted. As the dreadful hour of his unhappy exit approached the power of Satan ſeemed abated, and he appeared much affected with an awful futurity. He then made a full confeſſion as above related, and denied the report which prevailed of his having been concerned in other ſimilar acts.

Soon after eleven o'clock he reached the place of execution, the uſual ceremony being over the ordinary got into the waggon, and he joined in prayer for near half an hour, which being ended, the cap was pulled over his eyes, and he was launched into eternity. After hanging the uſual time, his body was cut down, and brought back to priſon, from thence to be conveyed and hung in chains near the ſpot where the ſaid murder was committed.